

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 18 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 – 11 have been amended. Support for the amendment to claims 1 – 11 can be found in original claim 12, at a minimum. Support for the amendment to claim 11 can be found in original claim 1 and at page 15, lines 17 – 18 of the PCT publication of this application, at a minimum. Claims 12 and 13 have been canceled. Claims 14 – 18 have been added. Support for claim 14 can be found in original claim 1 in combination with page 3, line 27 to page 4, line 2 of the PCT publication of this application, at a minimum. Support for claim 15 can be found in original claim 4, at a minimum. Support for claim 16 can be found in original claim 5, at a minimum. Support for claim 17 can be found in original claim 10, at a minimum. Support for claim 18 can be found in original claim 2, at a minimum.

Claim Objections

Claims 4 – 13 are objected to under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claims. Claim 4 – 11 have been amended to remove the multiple dependencies. Claims 12 – 13 have been canceled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections related to multiple dependencies.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 101/112

Claims 1 – 11 are rejected under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being an improper process claims. Claims 1 – 11 have been amended either to affirmatively recite a composition or to recite the steps involved in the claimed process. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in proper format and request withdrawal of the rejections based upon the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 101/112.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 – 3 are rejected under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 08071406 by Kida et al (hereinafter “Kida”). Claim 1 has been amended to recite a coating composition comprising a binder and a rheology modification agent produced by reacting one of more polyisocyanates with one or more optically active amino acids, esters,

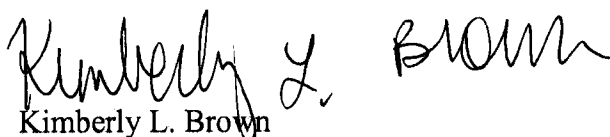
and/or salts having the formula shown in claim 1. Kida fails to teach the use of a binder combined with a rheology modification agent as recited in claim 1. To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach each element of the claim. Because at least one element is missing from Kida, it cannot anticipate claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of claim 1 is patentably distinct from the subject matter disclosed in Kida and request withdrawal of the rejections based upon this reference.

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Applicants believe that the present pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the objections and rejections of the pending claims in light of the above analysis. Applicants reserve the right to present additional comments related to the differences between the present invention and the subject matter of the cited references.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any questions presented by this paper, Applicants request that the Examiner directly contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at 713-787-1554 to further the discussion, reconsideration, and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Kimberly L. Brown in black ink.

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